



The President's Daily Brief

28 September 1971



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS


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The situation in China is discussed on Page 2.

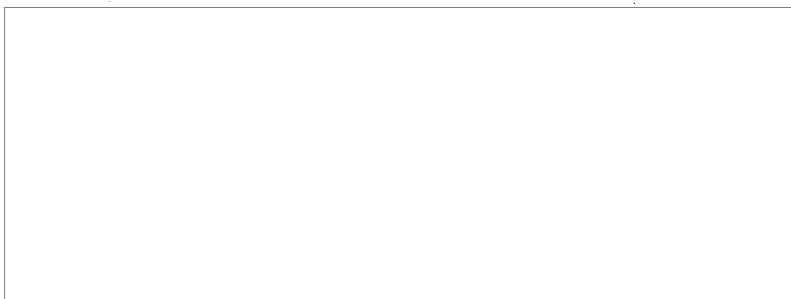
In northwestern Laos, the Chinese have begun to extend their road network south toward the Mekong River.
(Page 3)

Elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have moved from Cambodia into South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province. (Page 4)

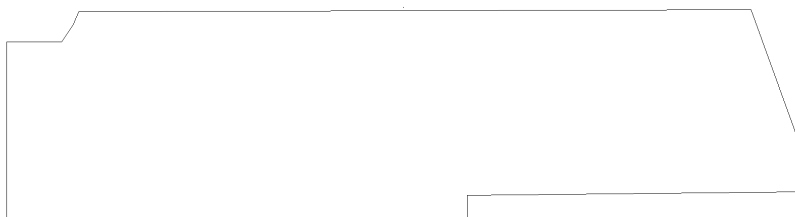
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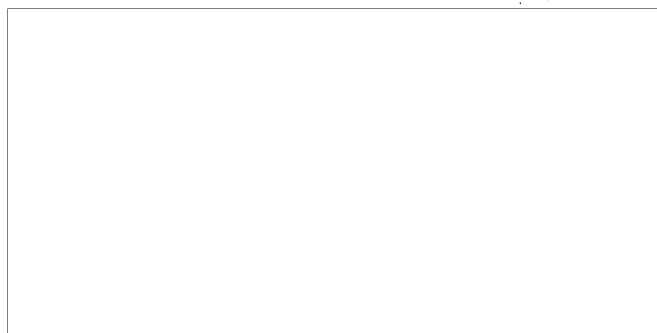
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COMMUNIST CHINA

We have no confirmation of those press reports that the Canton television station has promised a special newscast for tonight about the "circumstances" regarding National Day curtailment. The US Consulate in Hong Kong has been unable to find any evidence for such a promise after reviewing tapes of the broadcasts from Canton.

 a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Peking who last week told some members of the diplomatic corps that they would soon receive "the clue" as to why National Day celebrations have been curtailed.

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The suspension of military flight activity is continuing, except for some training flights and defensive patrols. Other military activity throughout the country appears to be normal.



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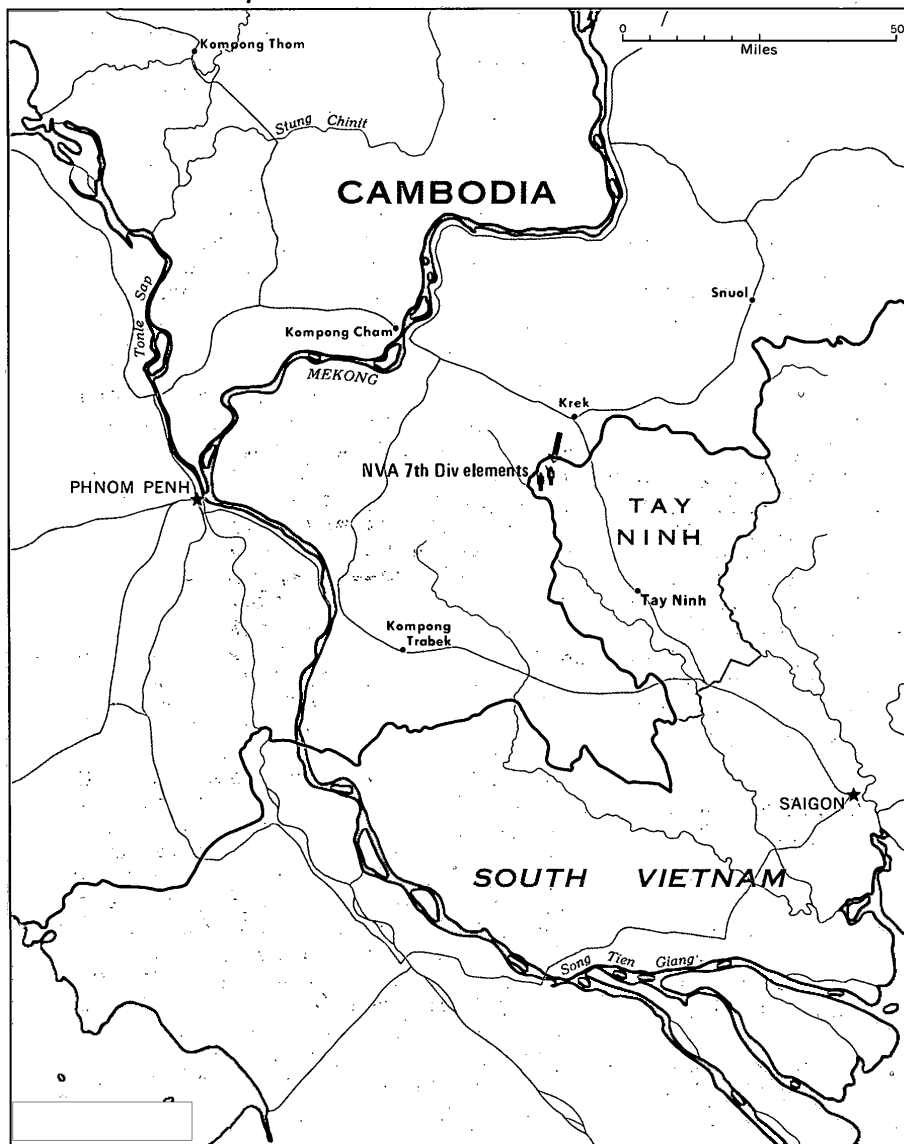
COMMUNIST CHINA - LAOS

Photography of northwest Laos shows that the Chinese have begun to extend Route 46 south of Muong Houn toward the Mekong River. There are now about eight miles of single-lane road south of Muong Houn, going at least two miles beyond the existing motorable trail that was cleared in November 1970 to serve a forward AAA position. The presence of construction camps and heavy construction equipment along the new road is indicative of more than a simple clearing or trail re-alignment operation, as is the apparent construction of five new AAA sites about two miles south of Muong Houn in the last few months.

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The Chinese pushed Route 46 to Muong Houn in January 1970 but, except for the motorable trail, did not add substantially to it in the 1970-71 dry season. Instead, they concentrated last winter chiefly on improvements to bridges and culverts on Route 45--on the northern segment of the artery running from Muong Houn to Dien Bien Phu in North Vietnam. Most of the 160 miles of roads built by the Chinese in Laos since 1968 have been concentrated in the Route 45-46 system.

Communist Military Action Increases in Border Area



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NOTES

South Vietnam - Cambodia: [REDACTED]

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elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have recently moved from positions about 25 miles inside Cambodia into the northwestern corner of South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province. Over the weekend there were heavy enemy shellings and some ground assaults on allied positions in northern Tay Ninh, as well as around Krek on the Cambodian side of the border, suggesting that other division elements have moved or are moving back into South Vietnam. Such moves may reflect plans to increase pressure on the South Vietnamese prior to next Sunday's presidential election as well as to cause Saigon to pull back some of its 10,000 troops still operating in Cambodia.

Egypt-USSR: Cairo has publicly confirmed that President Sadat will soon pay a state visit to the Soviet Union. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] He can be expected to press for an increased supply of arms of a more advanced and sophisticated nature--a matter on which Foreign Minister Riad failed to get satisfaction when in Moscow in early July. The discussions will be held against a background of a lingering of the strains that developed between the two nations in the wake of the abortive pro-Communist coup in the Sudan later that month.

Libya: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] replacements from within the Council have been picked for Qadhafi's posts as prime minister and as head of the Council, but that he will remain as defense minister and chief of the armed forces. We have little further indication of his present status, but note that his planned visit to Yemen last Saturday was cancelled, that the Arab summit meeting originally scheduled for Cairo last weekend was postponed, and that he has now been out of public view for some ten days.

USSR: [REDACTED]

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